

# Climate Adaptation Strategy

## Biographies of Speakers

July 31, 2007

**Anthony J. Brunello** was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in August 2007 to serve as the Deputy Secretary for Climate Change and Energy at the California Resources Agency, the state agency responsible for managing California's natural, cultural and historical resources. In this capacity, he is responsible for coordinating all climate change and energy activities of a cabinet-level agency and its 24 departments, boards, commissions and conservancies and advising the agency secretary on climate change and energy policy. Prior to joining Governor Schwarzenegger's Administration, he managed all Europe and Eurasia international program efforts within the U.S. Forest Service. Anthony has worked extensively on climate and energy related issues developing greenhouse gas mitigation projects and analysis around the world for public and private sector clients for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, PA Consulting, and the World Bank. He has also worked as the Executive Director for the Tahoe-Baikal Institute and has worked on biodiversity conservation in Russia for a U.S. Agency for International Development contractor. A native of South Lake Tahoe, California, he received a bachelor in science degree in economics and environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Masters of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics from the University College London in the United Kingdom. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, Belinda, and their two children.

**Mark Cowin** was appointed Deputy Director for Regional Water Planning and Management of the Department of Water Resources(DWR) on May 2, 2007. His primary responsibilities include implementing Integrated Regional Water Management, coordinating DWR's efforts related to climate change, and updating and implementing the California Water Plan. Mr. Cowin also serves as DWR's representative on the Governor's Climate Action Team. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Cowin served for five years as Chief of DWR's Division of Planning and Local Assistance, which is responsible for the State's strategic planning for water management and for providing technical and financial assistance for water management to local agencies and communities. As Division Chief, Mr. Cowin oversaw development of the California Water Plan Update 2005, administered Propositions 13 and 50 grant and loan programs, and participated in development of the water management components of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan. In previous assignments, Mr. Cowin served as an Assistant Director for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. While at CALFED, he was responsible for the Bay-Delta Program's water management planning activities and participated in developing the CALFED plan for restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta. Mr. Cowin has worked at the Department of Water Resources for over 25 years. He received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1980.

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**R. Gregg Albright**, Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs, California Department of Transportation. R. Gregg Albright has over 31 years of experience in State government service within planning, project delivery, project management, local programs, community involvement and administration. Beginning in 1976 as a Landscape Architect, Gregg worked through a variety of headquarters and district settings. Most of his early career emphasized establishing substantive transportation solutions that reflected community values and upheld environmental stewardship responsibilities. In 2000, he was promoted to District 5's Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance and two years later he was appointed as the District 5 Director. As District Director, Gregg continued his emphasis on stakeholder collaboration in the planning and development of transportation solutions. With his recent appointment as Deputy Director, Gregg has expanded opportunities to promote effective stakeholder involvement and to advance proactive and strategic behavior within the Department. This emphasis on enhancing staff skill sets and organization competency has also engaged him at the national level, particularly in the area of promoting the principles of Context-Sensitive Solutions. Additionally, these career emphases have led to a number of leadership opportunities at the national level including work with AASHTO/Transportation Research Board, the National Scenic Byways program, The Center for Transportation and the Environment (National Academy of Science), American Planning Association and facilitation of "peer-to-peer" training workshops with Minnesota and New York.

**Helene G. Margolis, Ph.D., M.A.:** Dr. Margolis is an epidemiologist with the Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Assistant Adjunct Professor of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis, School of Medicine. At CDPH she serves as a lead scientist for assessment and risk mitigation of the health impacts of climate change and variability, including the clinical ramifications. Dr. Margolis has for many years been a leader in the area of vulnerable populations' environmental health research and policy. Prior to joining CDPH, she served as Assistant Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center in Cal/EPA, and lead scientist for the California Air Resources Board's epidemiologic research programs through which she initiated the Southern California Children's Health Study, the Fresno Asthmatic Children's Environment Study (FACES). She is Principal Investigator for the Cardiovascular Health Study Environmental Factors Ancillary Study. Dr. Margolis previously served as lead scientist for the pediatric HIV / AIDS epidemiologic surveillance project and HIV vaccine research and development program in the California Department of Health Services (now the CDPH). In addition to the public health impacts of climate change, her current research interests include pediatric asthma and lung function growth; and the pathophysiology and underlying mechanisms, including gene-environment interactions, of extrapulmonary effects of air pollution. Dr. Margolis has Ph.D. in epidemiology, a Masters in immunology, and a B.A. in Marine Sciences.

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**Kevin Hunting**, Deputy Director for Regional Operations Division, Department of Fish and Game

Kevin Hunting is the Deputy Director of the Conservation Planning and Water Resources Division of the Department of Fish and Game. He is responsible for the Department's regulatory and planning, conservation incentive, and water resources planning and assessment programs. In addition, Mr. Hunting oversees the recently formed Department Renewable Energy Support and Climate Change branch focused on integrating renewable energy development into planning, regulatory, and regional operations functions within the Department. Prior to his current position, Mr. Hunting was the Regional Manager for the South Coast Region and Chief of the Habitat Conservation Branch. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from Humboldt State University and has worked in wildlife management, conservation planning, and resource assessment for over 20 years.

**Rick Rayburn**, Chief of the Natural Resources Division, California State Parks. Rick has been the chief of natural resources for the State Parks System since 1985. In this capacity, he has had responsibilities for classification of state park units, land use planning, natural resource policy formulation, stewardship funding programs, and natural resource acquisitions. He was also the chief for cultural (prehistoric and historic) resource management until 2001, when a new cultural resources division was established. He is a member of the executive committee of the California Biodiversity Council. Also, he was the Chair of the Managers Working Group for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project—a multi-agency public/nonprofit organization committed to wetland acquisition and restoration, under the lead of the State Coastal Conservancy. Recently, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Santa Lucia Conservancy in Monterey County. After working as a coastal program analyst for the California Coastal Commission, North Coast Region, he was the Commission's regional director from 1977 to 1985 for the area from San Francisco to the Oregon border. Rick graduated from University of California Los Angeles in 1969 with a management degree. After serving in the US Air Force (1969-1971) he attended graduate school of forestry at Humboldt State University concentrating on redwood forest ecology.

**Brian E. Baird** is the Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy with the California Resources Agency. He has served as the Director of the California Ocean Resources Management Program under Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and has previously served in this role under Governors Davis and Wilson. He represents the State of California as the Chair of the Coastal States Organization and was previously chair of its Ocean Policy Committee. He was the chief writer of Governor Wilson's statewide strategy for protecting and managing the State's ocean resources titled, *California's Ocean Resources: An Agenda for the Future* (Ocean Agenda) and was the chief writer of Governor Schwarzenegger's 2004 strategy titled, *"Protecting Our Ocean – California's Strategy for Action."*

On Earth Day April 23, 1999, Assistant Secretary Baird was designated an "Environmental Hero" by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and was named as the Outstanding Alumni of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of California at Santa Barbara for 2001. In February 2008 he received NOAA's Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Management.

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He has served as a Vice-Chair of the international conferences, *California and the World Ocean (CWO)* '97, '02 and '06, and is currently working on plans for CWO '10.

**Bill Snyder**, Deputy Director for Resource Management, Cal/Fire. Bill is responsible for the following programs: Forest Practice regulation and enforcement, management of state forests and nurseries, landowner assistance programs, environmental protection and CEQA compliance, climate, urban forestry, utilization (including woody biomass) and archaeology. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management from Humboldt State University, 1973. Former member of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1995 through 1998.